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1949 REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SHILDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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SHILDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1950

Chairman of the Council, 1949-1950
Councillor W. H. Gibson, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor T. W. Storey

Chairman of the Health Committee: Councillor W. H. Gibson

Chairman of the Housing Committee: Councillor T. W. Storey

Councillors:

J. H. Appleby	C. T. Brownless	G. W. Kirtley, J.P.
A. Aston	G. Coates, C.C.	J. O. Laidlow
E. Barlow	C. Cook	F. H. Manners
W. Bland	P. R. Douthwaite	P. Pearse
J. Box	W. Edwards	W. Stokoe
H. Boughton	G. C. Gibson	B. Walker, J.P.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):
P. V. Anderson, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector:
W. K. Hill, M.B.E., M.R.San.I.

Clerical Assistant:
S. Thompson

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHILDON

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Work of the District during the year ending 31st December, 1949.

P. V. Anderson,

Medical Officer of Health.

Population:

The Registrar General's figures as at the middle of 1949 give the resident population of the district as 14,720.

Area:

The Urban District covers 4,970 acres, including the parishes of Eldon, Old Eldon, Fylands, Middridge and Brusselton.

Inhabited Houses:

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the District at the end of December, 1949, was 4,309.

Of this number, 61 were recently constructed and 8 Condemned and Demolition Orders served under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936.

Rateable Value:

The Rateable Value of the District is £45,039 and the Product of a Penny Rate £159.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS, 1949

Live Births	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate	139	135	274	13·04
Illegitimate	11	6	17	
	150	141	291	

Still Births	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Legitimate	4	6	10	·68
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	4	6	10	

Comparative Years:

1936	Live Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	15·06
	Still Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	·67
	Population.	11,880.	
1946	Live Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	20·87
	Still Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	·76
1947	Live Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	25·78
	Still Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	1·4
1948	Live Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	18·9
	Still Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	·8
1949	Live Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	13·04
	Still Births.	Birthrate per 1,000 population	·68

Comparison with Country Averages:

Country (England and Wales, Small Towns):

Birth Rate .... 18·0

Shildon:

Birth Rate .... 13·04

DEATHS AS PER RETURNS TO MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Total Number of Deaths Notified : 171.

Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-60	60-70	70-80	Over 80
9	—	1	3	4	9	32	56	18

Deaths Outside the District :

Males	Females	Total
27	12	39

COMPARISONS WITH COUNTRY AVERAGE

Maternal Death Rate :

Country Average (Small Towns) 5·30 per 1,000 Live Births
Shildon Average .... 3·43 per 1,000 Live Births

Puerperal Sepsis Death Rate :

Country Average (Small Towns) 0·05 per 1,000 Live Births
Shildon Average .... Nil per 1,000 Live Births

Other Puerperal Cases :

Country Average (Small Towns) 0·11 per 1,000 Live Births
Shildon Average .... Nil per 1,000 Live Births

Tuberculosis Death Rate :

Country Average (Small Towns) 0·42 per 1,000 population
Shildon Average .... 0·34 per 1,000 population

DEATHS, 1949

	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
Deaths	100	71	171	11·62
Infantile Under 1 yr.	10	5	15	56·4
Still Births	4	6	10	37·6

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1905	19·2
1939	11·4
1940	14·9
1941	13·5
1942	13·2
1943	15·0
1944	13·1
1945	12·8
1946	13·04
1947	13·6
1948	12·8
1949	11·62

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Year	Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births
1905	167
1936	72
1946	61
1947	53·3
1948	36·3
1949	56·4

Comparison with Country Average, 1949.

	Death Rate	Inf. Mort. Rate	Still Birth Rate	Birth Rate
Country Average (Small Towns)	11·6	30	0·40	18·0
Shildon Average	11·62	56·4	0·68	13·04

Causes of Death, 1949	Male	Female
All Causes	100	71
Whooping Cough	—	—
Tuberculosis (respiratory system)	2	1
Other tubercular disease	—	2
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Cancer of the buccal, cav, and aesoph (H) uterus (F)	1	1
Cancer of the stomach and duodenum	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	6	5
Diabetes	—	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	21	8
Heart disease	20	25
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	7
Bronchitis	14	4
Pneumonia	4	3
Other respiratory diseases	2	2
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	3	—
Other digestive diseases	2	2
Nephritis	—	1
Other maternal causes	—	1
Premature birth	1	1
Congenital malformation	5	—
Suicide	1	—
Other violent causes	—	—
Road traffice accident	1	—
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	—	1
Acute inf. encephalitis	—	1
Appendicitis	—	1
All other causes	9	3
	100	71

TUBERCULOSIS, 1949

The following cases remained upon the Register at the end of the year :—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Males	34	31	65
Females	45	31	76
	79	62	141

The number of known Tuberculosis Cases in the District represents ·93% of the population, a reduction of ·02% on the previous year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

With the inception of the National Health Act (5th July, 1948), this service became the responsibility of Durham County Council.

Estimated Mid-Year Child Population (1949) :

Under 4 yrs.	5–14	Total
1,391	2,330	3,721

SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

INFECTIOUS DISEASE	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-61	Over 61
SCARLET FEVER	—	2	9	5	2	17	13	—	—	1	—	—
DIPHTHERIA ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
PUERPERAL PYREXIA ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
PNEUMONIA ..	3	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	5	4
MEASLES	12	34	35	17	64	17	1	1	1	—	—	—
WHOOPING COUGH	2	9	7	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ERYSIPELAS ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
POLIOMYELITIS	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS—MALES (i) PULMONARY	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1
(ii) NON-PULMONARY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
FEMALES (i) PULMONARY	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	1	—	—
(ii) NON-PULMONARY	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
PARATYPHOID FEVER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

Note.—Both the above-mentioned notifications of Diphtheria were "Not Confirmed." All cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are accommodated at Tindale Crescent Infectious Disease Hospital which has 109 beds for the purpose.

Note.—The above case of Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) was admitted to Tindale Crescent Infectious Disease Hospital. The diagnosis was not confirmed.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply :

The area is supplied by means of a piped supply of water provided by the Durham County Water Board and continues to be ample in all wards and is of excellent quality.

Continual bacteriological and chemical tests are carried out by the Durham County Water Board on the supply to the District which have proved satisfactory.

Refuse Collection :

The whole area is serviced by the Council, the service including the collection of house refuse, trade refuse and salvage.

Collection of Kitchen Waste :

Since the commencement of the collection of kitchen waste, 1949, the total amount collected is as follows :—

Description			Tons	Cwts.
Raw Kitchen Waste	....	....	24	3

Collection of Salvage :

The collection of salvage in the Urban District was suspended owing to non-acceptance of salvage by the paper mills, and it is anticipated that this will be introduced during the ensuing financial year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The drains and sewers continue to work in a satisfactory manner, and the sewage works give excellent results.

RODENT CONTROL

Two complete sewer treatments have been carried out during the year, results of which have shown a marked drop in the number of rats present in the Urban District. In addition, private businesses and dwelling houses were also treated as and where necessary.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Council continues to make all efforts to have the nuisances caused by the pulverised coal dust in the town abated, and, with this in view, has enlisted the assistance of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

Certain improvements have been made, and it is anticipated that these will develop during the next few years until this nuisance ceases to exist. Arrangements are now in hand for the gradual elimination of this nuisance.

Summary of Notices and Work Done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1949.

	No. of Informal Notices	No. of Formal Notices	No. Abated
I. Public Health Acts :			
Dwelling-houses and Schools — Structural Defects	92	33	60
Dwelling-houses and Schools — Foul Conditions	1	1	1
Cowsheds	5	—	5
Bakehouses	6	1	7
Slaughter-houses	1	—	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	2	—	2
Water Closets	4	—	4
Defective Yard Paving	3	—	3
House Drainage — Defective Traps	—	—	—
House Drainage — Other Faults	5	7	11
Water Supply	1	—	1
Smoke Nuisances	—	2	—
Other Nuisances	119	1	119
Rodent Control	36	—	36
	271	44	250

II. Water, Food and Drugs :

Samples of Water taken for Analysis (water samples taken by Durham County Water Board) .... Nil

Seizures of Unwholesome Food (voluntarily surrendered) 153

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (Cont.)

III. Precautions Against Infectious Disease :

Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or Destroyed .... (Five of which were destroyed.)	15
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	49

IV. General :

Number of New Houses Erected during Year	61
Number of such Houses Occupied during Year	61
Total number of Water Closets in District	3,916
Total number of Ash Closets in District	440

MILK RETAILERS (DESIGNATED MILK)

There are fourteen (14) retail purveyors of milk in the District, three (3) of whom are supplying either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested milk.

Frequent samples have been taken by the Inspector of Weights and Measures and also by the Durham War Agricultural Executive Committee's representatives, and all were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MEAT)

All meat for the Shildon Urban Area is supplied by the W.M.S.A., situate at Bishop Auckland, where home-killed meat is inspected before delivery to this area.

Of the imported frozen meat delivered to this area, 636 lbs. were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare centre provides for consultation and treatment twice weekly.

School Clinic provides for consultation and treatment twice weekly.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Since 5th July, 1948, Ambulance Services have been provided by the Durham County Council, the centre for this area being Bishop Auckland, where six ambulances are available. In

addition, a private ambulance is still available for subscribers who work at Shildon British Railways Wagon Works. Should none of these be available at any time, then the Bishop Auckland Centre calls upon the Pool for an ambulance, the nearest emergency centre being Crook.

HOUSING

The Council's Pre-War and Post- War Housing Programmes are summarised as follows :—

1919 Act	126 Houses Erected
1930-1935 Acts (Slum Clearance, Overcrowding)	100 Houses Erected
Post-War Temporary Houses	44 Houses Erected
Post-War Permanent Houses	132 Houses Erected
Post-War Aged People's Bungalows	10 Erected

Since the opening of the Council's Housing List in June, 1946, approximately 1,400 applications have been received.

Houses have been allocated on a Points Scheme, namely, points for Overcrowding, Lack of Bedroom Accommodation and Standard of Existing Housing.

Special cases, due to serious illness, *e.g.*, Tuberculosis or other urgent reasons, we reconsidered under the Hardship List.

In addition, the Council has had to provide houses for Key Workers in the new factories in their area and has also provided accommodation for the Police to assist the Durham County Constabulary to provide better service to the area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1949

Visits are paid regularly to the factories in the District to ensure that they comply with the various Provisions, Rules and Orders under this Act. Improvements have been carried out in the factories at the instigation of the Council, but many of the undesirable features which were existing during the year 1948, have been overcome by the establishment of new factories on the New Trading Estate, Shildon.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

P. V. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health,
Shildon Urban District Council

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